[30th October 1931

Forest range offices in North Arcot and Salem districts.

* 248 *Q.*—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many forest range offices there are in each of the North Arcot and Salem districts;

(*b*) in which of those ranges expenditure is greater than that of the income from the range; and

(*c*) what is the total income and expenditure respectively from Krishnagiri range of the Salem district?

A.—(*a*) North Arcot 8
Salem 13

(*b*) Namakkal Range of the Salem district.

(*c*) Income ... ... Rs. 17,089 } in the year **1930–31.**
Expenditure ... ,, 5,485 }

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member to state whether there is any proposal to abolish such ranges as are not self-supporting?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"No."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"Why?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Because there is no need."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"If they are not self-supporting?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Money is not the only consideration."

Classification of areas by the Forest department.

* 249 *Q.*—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the classification of areas in the forest is now done by the Forest department alone without consultation with any local body or panchayat?

A.—The general classification of forests into provincial and local or ryots' forests was completed by 1927 and in making that classification local opinion was consulted. Subsequent transfers from provincial to local were, however, made only in consultation with local forest officers. But in the case of some transfers from local to provincial, the panchayats also have been consulted.

Consultation of forest panchayats in allotting coupes for cutting fuel.

* 250 *Q.*—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether in allotting blocks or coupes for cutting fuel the forest panchayats are not consulted?

A.—The Forest Panchayats are not consulted in the allotment of blocks or coupes in the reserves under the control of the Forest Department and in the allotment of major coupes in the Panchayat Forests. But in cases where small fuel coupes are worked in the Panchayat Forests, the scheme is drawn up after consulting the panchayats which are to work them.

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—" May I know what the difficulty is in consulting forest panchayats in regard to the major coupes? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" With reference to major coupes, working plans were already adopted and they are being worked even now."

Prisons

Release of Mappilla prisoners.

* 251 *Q.*—Mr. YAKUB HASAN: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Mappillas imprisoned or confined in connexion with the Malabar Rebellion of 1921 have been released since 1st January 1931;

(*b*) how many are still (1) in the Andamans and (2) in other jails;

(*c*) what period still remains to be served by these prisoners; and

(*d*) in view of the promise made by the hon. the Law Member on the floor of the House in March last, what decision the Government have arrived at in the matter of the release of the remaining Mappilla prisoners?

A.—(*a*) Two hundred and sixty-four prisoners including 226 from the Andamans were released from the 1st January 1931 to the 14th August 1931. Four State prisoners have also been released since 1st January 1931.

(*b*) The figures as on the 14th August 1931 are—

(1) 557.

(2) 1,489.

(*c*) Varying periods between a year and a half and 26 years, not taking remissions and premature releases into account.

(*d*) The hon. Member is referred to the press communiquè [a], dated the 24th October 1931, a copy of which is placed on the table.

Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—" Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to give, with reference to this communiquè, a rough idea at least of the number of those who have been guilty of more heinous offences."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" I am not able to give exact information, but, as far as I can say, I suppose roughly it will be about 150 or so. My friend should not take my answer as being accurate. I am only speaking from memory."

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[a] Printed as Appendix III-A at page 138 infra.